

[27 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Upgradation of Amritsar Airport

***96. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay and sanctioned financial plan for the upgradation of Amritsar Airport into international airport;

(b) whether tenders have been floated for the above project and what is the completion time-schedule; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for the inordinate delay in commencing construction work following sanction of this project in 1997?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A project for upgradation of Amritsar Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 79.27 crores with budgetary support by the Central Government in debt equity ratio of 1 : 1 has been approved by the Government on 7.11.2000.

(b) Yes Sir. The project is likely to be completed by November, 2003.

(c) The reasons for delay in formal Government approval and commencement of construction work are as follows:

- (i) delay in handing over land for conducting soil test, design and detailed estimation of upgradation work;
- (ii) Public Investment Board (PIB) directed to conduct fresh detailed survey regarding the potential for growth of passenger and cargo traffic from Punjab and adjoining area, which was conducted afresh by Airports Authority of India;
- (iii) PIB also directed to explore private participation in the project.

Dumping of Chinese goods

***97. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Li Peng, the Second-in-Command in Peking hierarchy, the question of large scale dumping of Chinese goods,